

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 002509

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R, R/MR, I/RW, I/REC; PA,  
SA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SADDAM'S CAPTURE

"Saddam s capture and after"

Editorial in the centrist "Kathmandu Post"  
(E/D, 12/24) by senior journalist M.R.  
Josse: " The saga of Saddam  
Husseini s capture has all the ingredients of  
a parable handed down from one generation to  
the next. Indeed, the tale of a once-mighty  
ruler who evades a conquering army for  
months by hiding in a hole has an  
unmistakable Biblical ring to it "

A LAMB, NOT LION

" 'The butcher of Baghdad' who exhorted his  
followers to become martyrs in a jihad  
against the American infidel went to them  
as meekly as a lamb! Although he possessed  
a pistol and two AK-47s, he opted to save  
his skin "

WHAT KIND OF TRIAL

" International human rights groups, aware  
of the limitations in the experience of the  
Iraqi judiciary, call for international  
judges to have a role in the trial. Yet,  
anything other than an Iraqi trial will  
greatly erode its credibility and  
effectiveness, attributes absolutely vital  
for real progress towards meaningful self-  
rule for Iraqis "

BUSH: BOON OR BANE?

" Bush s re-election prospects have been  
enhanced considerably by Saddam being  
nabbed [It] needs also to be factored into  
calculation is the unexpected, success which  
Bush (and his faithful ally Tony Blair) has  
demonstrated in getting Libya s strongman  
Moamer Kadhafi to renounce all weapons of  
mass destruction, following nine months of  
secret negotiations between Tripoli,

SIPDIS

Washington and London. Clearly, Bush is not  
altogether the duffer he is often made out  
to be."

MALINOWSKI